

# LANDSCAPE DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Landscape architects work with homeowners to preserve, develop and enhance their properties. Depending on the client's needs, landscape architects can provide designs that the homeowner installs or that can be installed by licensed contractors. Landscape architects may not install their own design, unless they hold a contractors license. Typical landscape architecture plans for a residential project might include the following:

- site analysis;
- location of structures;
- design of driveways and walks;
- patios;
- water features; and
- selection and placement of plants.

Detailed plans prepared by a landscape architect could also include:

- grading and drainage;
- irrigation systems;
- erosion control measures;
- lighting plans;
- trellises;
- shade structures;
- fire safety zones; and
- other landscape features.

## LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS (C-27)

A landscape contractor constructs, maintains, repairs, installs, or subcontracts the development of landscape systems and facilities for public and private gardens and other areas which are designed to aesthetically, architecturally, horticulturally, or functionally improve the grounds within or surrounding a structure or a tract or plot of land. In connection therewith, a landscape contractor prepares and grades plots and areas of land for the installation of any architectural, horticultural and decorative treatment or arrangement.

*Authority cited: Title 16, California Code of Regulations 832.27*

Landscape contractors install their own designs or the design work of landscape architects.

## UNLICENSED PERSONS

The Landscape Architects Practice Act is the law that regulates the practice of landscape architecture in the State of California. Any person, not licensed, who is found to be using the title "landscape architect," engaging in the practice of landscape architecture, or in violation of Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 5640, is subject to an administrative fine and/or imprisonment in the county jail. The following excerpt from BPC section 5641 illustrates what is acceptable for an unlicensed person to do:

*This chapter shall not prohibit any person from making plans or drawings for the selection, placement, or use of plants when the execution of such plans or drawings does not affect the public health, safety and welfare. This chapter shall not prohibit any person from making any plans, drawings or specifications for any property owned by that person.*

Examples of unlicensed landscape practitioners include: landscape designers, landscape consultants, garden designers, garden consultants, arborists, nurseryman and other landscape design practitioners. These practitioners may only practice what fits in the above exemption.

Before selecting a landscape professional for your home improvement project, consider contacting the LATC to verify if that person is licensed. If they are not licensed, verify that the services to be provided are exempt from licensure.